

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) A metal halide lamp ~~having~~ comprising:  
a ceramic discharge vessel, the discharge vessel having two ends which are closed off by stoppers, and an electrically conductive leadthrough being guided through ~~this~~ at least one stopper, an electrode with a shank being secured to the leadthrough, which electrode projects into the interior of the discharge vessel, the leadthrough and electrode together being referred to as an electrode system, wherein the electrode system ~~comprises~~ includes at least two components, which are designed as pins of different smaller diameter, the larger diameter component being a niobium pin and the smaller component, which adjoins ~~it~~ the larger diameter component on the inner, discharge side, being a pin made from molybdenum or tungsten which is fitted in a single ended bore formed in the niobium pin, the ratio of the diameter of the smaller diameter component to that of the ~~Nb~~ niobium pin being between 30 and 65%, and ~~the pin which has been fitted in being secured in the bore by means of a mechanical pressing operation~~ an end of the smaller diameter component being positioned in the bore, and retained in the larger diameter component by mechanical tension.
2. (Cancel) The metal halide lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mechanical pressing operation is realized by crimping or clamping.
3. (Currently amended) The metal halide lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the smaller diameter component is an electrode shank made from tungsten.
4. (Currently amended) The metal halide lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the smaller diameter component is a pin made from molybdenum as the inner part of the leadthrough.
5. (Original) The metal halide lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bore is from 0.8 to 2.5 mm deep.

6. (Currently amended) The metal halide lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein in terms of diameter the bore is matched to the ~~pin~~ diameter of the smaller diameter component, which smaller diameter component is to be fitted in the bore, thereby excluding any dead volume therebetween.
7. (Original) The metal halide lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bore has an encircling wall.
8. (Original) The metal halide lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bore is slotted and has at least two tongues.
9. (Cancel) An electrode system for a metal halide lamp with ceramic discharge vessel, wherein the electrode system comprises two components, which are designed as pins of different diameter, the larger component being a niobium pin and the smaller component being a pin made from molybdenum or tungsten which is fitted in a bore in the niobium pin, the ratio of the diameter of the smaller component to that of the Nb pin being between 30 and 65%, and the pin which has been fitted in being secured in the bore by means of a mechanical pressing operation.
10. (Cancel) A process for producing an electrode system which comprises two components which are designed as pins of different diameter, the larger component being a niobium pin and the smaller component being a pin made from molybdenum or tungsten, the niobium pin having a bore for receiving the smaller component, the ratio of the diameter of the smaller component to that of the Nb pin being between 30 and 65%, comprising the following process steps:
  - a) fitting of the smaller component into the niobium pin;
  - b) securing of the fitted-in pin in the bore by means of a mechanical pressing operation, in particular crimping or clamping.

CLAIM STATUS:

Claims 1 (Currently amended)

Claims 2: (Canceled)

Claims 3 - 4: (Currently amended)

Claims 5: (Original)

Claims 6 (Currently amended)

Claims 7 - 8: (Original)

Claims 9 -10: (Canceled)